

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 16-20 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 6 and 14 being independent. Claims 7 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 6, 8-11, 14 and 16-19 have been amended herein.

The drawings were objected to for a minor informality. In response, Applicants are submitting herewith a Letter Transmitting Corrected Formal Drawing in which reference numeral 18b has been deleted from Fig. 6. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are requested.

Claims 14-20 were objected to for a minor informality. Claim 14 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims are requested.

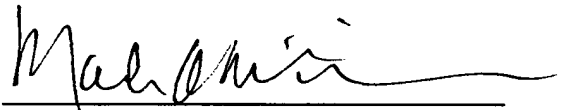
Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 1-5, and for her indication that Claims 7-11 and 15-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 6, 12-14 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended independent Claims 6 and 14 to incorporate the allowable features of dependent Claims 7 and 15, respectively. Claims 7 and 15 have been cancelled, and the remaining claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without

prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

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